

Sunday, April 9, 2000: Pre-Conference Session Descriptions

As you should be aware, the NTX will begin on Sunday, April 9 with a series of pre-conference specialized training opportunities. Each session will be 4 hours from 1-5 PM and will address the following topic areas.

- A. Worker-Led Evaluation: Self-Sufficiency Research and Evaluation Pilot Project
- B. Participatory Education
- C. Worker-Led Incident Investigation
- D. Instrumental Enrichment

There is no additional charge for these sessions, however you must register early and indicate which session you would like to attend on your registration form.

A. Worker-Led Evaluation: Self-Sufficiency Research and Evaluation Pilot Project

The goal of this workshop is to engage participants in an emerging model of worker-led, team-based, participatory research and evaluation activities, which will give them a broad understanding of all aspects of worker-led evaluations. The activities will build participants' program research and evaluation capacities through applied participatory models and research skills training. Ultimately, this workshop will help participants to understand evaluation as a process of continuous learning with health and safety programs, provide important ways to measure and document program success, and recognize the importance of identifying and using program values and goals to guide evaluations.

B. Participatory Education (Changed title from Linking Literacy Through Popular Education)

The goal of this workshop is to provide an innovative approach to promoting education through participatory methods that maximize active participation and involvement. It is a methodology of participatory learning which builds on the individuals' innate abilities to address work related health and safety issues and recognize solutions through dialog and participatory principles of learning. Sustainable learning takes place in a participatory context, which jointly produces avenues for change. Participatory education aims to empower individuals to recognize talents within themselves and to use them.

C. Worker-Led Incident Investigation

The goal of this workshop is to provide a comprehensive look into methods that will enable participants to better guide workers on the importance of taking the lead in investigating and reporting incidents that occur on the job. The focus will be placed on understanding how and why this process can bring about a change in the workplace, thus creating a sense of ownership and confidence for the worker.

D. Instrumental Enrichment

The goal of this workshop is to provide insight and understanding of how Feuerstein's Instrumental Enrichment (FIE) and Mediated Learning Experience (MLE) can assist in trainings to build powerful thinking skills. The workshop will consist of a blend of FIE/MLE exercises and debriefing that will enable participants to experience FIE as "students." Participants will analyze their experiences through self-reflection and rigorous dialogue. They will apply these FIE principles to their own areas of training, such as lead abatement, confined space, hazardous waste operation and emergency response, etc. Participants will ultimately experience how FIE and MLE will assist in critical thinking, complex problem-solving and proactive learning.